Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) An environmental performance improvement support system, comprising:

a material composition database that organizes composition information of materials as a database;

a controlled substance database that organizes control information related to chemical substances as a control target, as a database; ~~and~~

a release rate database that organizes information related to the release rates at each release-transfer destination of chemical substances as a ~~database,~~ database; and

~~wherein:~~

~~based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process,~~ a server that sets: (a) the release amounts to each release-transfer destination of chemical substances that compose said materials ~~are set;~~

based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process, (b) information for improving the environmental performance, according to information on these chemical substances that are ~~released is set;~~ released, (c) the information related to said release rates ~~is set~~ based on the release information that prescribes the relationship of the release amounts to each

release-transfer destination of the chemical substances with respect to the input amounts of the materials that are input into equipments that are used in said certain process; and (d) environmental performance information that evaluates environmental effects due to discharging chemical substances in the release amounts that correspond to the input amounts of said materials that are input, and/or investment effectiveness information related to the costs for reducing said chemical substances that are released are set.

2.   (original) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 1, wherein:

said environmental performance information is information that evaluates environmental effects based on at least one impact factor from among impact factors on human health, impact factors on amenities, impact factors on ground subsidence, impact factors on ground water pollution and soil pollution, impact factors on air pollution, impact factors on water quality pollution, impact factors on stress on waste treatment capacity, impact factors on acid precipitation, impact factors on global warming, impact factors on ozone layer destruction, and impact factors on resource depletion.

3.   (original) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 1, wherein:

said investment effectiveness information is information that is set based on at least one item from among the processing performances, equipment costs,

and operation costs of equipments that reduce said chemical substances that are released.

4.   (previously presented)   The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 1, wherein:

the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

5.   (previously presented) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 1, wherein:

said release information is information that is represented in graph format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in said certain process.

6.   (currently amended) An environmental performance improvement support system, comprising:

a material composition database that organizes composition information of materials as a database;

a controlled substance database that organizes control information related to chemical substances as a control target, as a database; and

a release rate database that organizes information related to the release

rates at each release-transfer destination of chemical substances as a ~~database,~~

database; and

~~wherein:~~

~~based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a~~

~~certain process,~~ a server that sets the release amounts to each release-transfer

destination of chemical substances that compose said materials ~~are set;~~ based on

the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process;

wherein:

information related to an enterpriser that performs said certain process is

output;

at least one information type from among the handled amount, release

amount, release rate, and recycle rate of each chemical substance is available as

information related to the release rates of another enterpriser in the same

industry; and

information that compares information related to the release rates of said

enterpriser and said other enterpriser in the same industry is output.

7.   (currently amended) An environmental performance improvement

support system, comprising:

a material composition database that organizes composition information of

materials as a database;

a controlled substance database that organizes control information related

to chemical substances as a control target, as a database; ~~and~~

a release rate database that organizes information related to the release rates at each release-transfer destination of chemical substances as a ~~database,~~ database; and

~~wherein:~~

~~based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process,~~ a server that sets the release amounts to each release-transfer destination of chemical substances that compose said materials ~~are set;~~ based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process;

wherein:

information related to an enterpriser that performs said certain process is output; and

time-lapse changes of at least one information type from among the handled amount, release amount, release rate, and recycle rate of each chemical substance are output as information related to the release rates of said enterpriser.

8.   (currently amended) An environmental performance improvement support system, comprising:

a material composition database that organizes composition information of materials as a database;

a controlled substance database that organizes control information related to chemical substances as a control target, as a database; ~~and~~

a release rate database that organizes information related to the release

rates at each release-transfer destination of chemical substances as a ~~database,~~

database; and

~~wherein:~~

~~based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a~~

~~certain process,~~ a server that sets the release amounts to each release-transfer

destination of chemical substances that compose said materials ~~are set;~~ based on

the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process;

and

wherein:

information related to an enterpriser that performs said certain process is

output;

information of time-lapse changes of at least one from among the handled

amount, release amount, release rate, and recycle rate of each chemical

substance, of another enterpriser in the same industry is available; and

information that compares time-lapse changes of at least one from among

the handled amount, release amount, release rate, and recycle rate of each

chemical substance between said enterpriser and said other enterpriser in the

same industry is output.

9.   (currently amended) An environmental performance improvement

support system, comprising:

a material composition database that organizes composition information of

materials as a database;

a controlled substance database that organizes control information related to chemical substances as a control target, as a database; ~~and~~

a release rate database that organizes information related to the release rates at each release-transfer destination of chemical substances as a ~~database,~~ database; and

~~wherein:~~

~~based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process,~~ a server that sets: (a) the release amounts to each release-transfer destination of chemical substances that compose said materials ~~are set;~~ based on the types and input amounts of the materials that are input in a certain process, (b) information for improving the environmental performance, according to information on these chemical substances that are released, ~~is set;~~ (c) information related to said release rates ~~is set~~ based on the equipment-specific release rate information that is provided by the enterprisers that manufacture equipments which are used in said certain process; and (d) environmental performance information that evaluates environmental effects due to discharging chemical substances in the release amounts that correspond to the input amounts of said materials that are input, and/or investment effectiveness information related to the costs for reducing said chemical substances that are released ~~are set~~.

10.   (original) The environmental performance improvement support

system recited in claim 9, wherein:

said investment effectiveness information is information that is set based on at least one item from among the processing performances, equipment costs, and operation costs of equipments that reduce chemical substances, which are provided by the enterprisers that manufacture the equipments which reduce the chemical substances.

11.   The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein:

the equipment-specific release rate information provided by said enterprisers is release information that prescribes the relationship of the release amounts to each release-transfer destination of chemical substances that correspond to the input amounts of the materials that are input into equipments.

12.   (currently amended) An environmental performance improvement support method, wherein:

environmental performance improvement is supported based on a material composition database that organizes composition information of materials as a database, a controlled substance database that organizes control information related to chemical substances as a control target as a database, and a release rate database that organizes information related to the release rates at each release-transfer destination of chemical substances as a database,

comprising: the method comprising the acts of:

process 1, which, ~~based on said material composition database, identifies~~ utilizes a server to identify the chemical substances that compose the materials to be input in a certain process based on said material composition database;

process 2, which, ~~based on said controlled substance database, identifies~~ utilizes the server to identify the chemical substances that must be managed from among the chemical substances identified in said process 1 based on said controlled substance database;

process 3, which, ~~based on said release rate database, sets~~ utilizes the server to set the release amounts to the release-transfer destinations of the chemical substances identified in said process 2 based on said release rate database; and

process 4, which ~~evaluates~~ utilizes the server to evaluate environmental effects due to discharging the chemical substances in the release amounts set in said process 3.

13.   (original) The environmental performance improvement support method recited in claim 12, comprising:

process 5, which, based on the evaluation results of said process 4, evaluates the equipments that reduce said chemical substances which are released.

14.   (original) The environmental performance improvement support method recited in claim 13, comprising:

process 6, which, based on the evaluation results of said process 5, evaluates environmental effects in the case of equipments that reduce said chemical substances are installed.

15. (previously presented) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 2, wherein:

the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

16. (previously presented) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 3, wherein:

the equipments used in said certain process consists of a combination of a plurality of equipments; and

said environmental performance information and/or said investment effectiveness information are information that are set based on the combination of said plurality of equipments.

17. (previously presented) The environmental performance improvement support system recited in claim 2, wherein:

said release information is information that is represented in graph

format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is

represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in

said certain process.

18. (previously presented) The environmental performance improvement

support system recited in claim 3, wherein:

said release information is information that is represented in graph

format, table format, or with functional equations, or is information that is

represented by a combination of these formats for each equipment that is used in

said certain process.